(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the Tenth Plan with effect from 2005-06, with a total put lay of Rs. 2300.00 crore, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake-holders. The thrust of the Mission is to promote an area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, having comparative advantage.

(c) All the States and Union Territories are covered under the NHM, except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, which are covered under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North -Eastern States including Sikkim" (TMNE).

(d) and (e) The State of Himachal Pradesh has been covered under the TMNE since 2003-04. An outlay of Rs. 80.00 crore has been earmarked for the State of Himachal Pradesh for Tenth Plan for taking up activities for the overall development of horticulture in the State covering Research, Production and Productivity programmes, creation of infrastructures for Post Harvest Management and Marketing and Procession.

(f) Does not arise.

Checking production and sale of sub-standard pesticides

†307. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of pesticides in the country and the total number of pesticide producing companies in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the companies are providing substandard pesticides to the farmers as a result of which farmers suffer the loss from their crops as well as the financial loss;

(c) if so, the number of companies which have no laboratories; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the production and sale of sub-standard pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Approximately 40,000 metric tonnes of technical grade pesticides were consumed in the country in 2004-05. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, has granted more than 50,000 Certificates of Registration. The Licensing Authorities in the State Government issue licenses for manufacture of pesticides on the basis of such Certificates of Registration.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate, *inter-alia,* the manufacture and sale of insecticides. The Registration committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, registers pesticides only after being satisfied of its efficacy. Quality assurance of pesticides is ensured through regular drawl and analysis of pesticide samples through a network of Insecticides Inspectors, Insecticides Analysts and Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Act provides for adequate penal provisions for meeting out punishment to farmulators, manufacturers and sellers of sub-standard pesticides.

Releasing new varieties of pulses by ICAR

308. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR is going to release some of the new varieties of pulses to sustain in various agro-climatic zones of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how those new varieties are different from the existing ones?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Twelve varieties of different pulse crops including three varieties of chickpea, two varieties each of pigeonpea and mungbean, and one variety each of lentil, fieldpea, cowpea, mothbean and horsegram have been